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to was received by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, an Officer of the Government of India, who also sent a reply to the letter.

" (b) Does not arise."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I ask, when a misappropriation of funds by a factory owner takes place in the State, whether it is not the duty of this Government to see that the person who is responsible for it, is dealt with under the law? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner took notice of the misappropriation and in consultation with the Collector has taken the necessary steps in the matter. Now, at the instance of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, the Collector is taking action to realize the arrears due to orkers by selling the properties attached."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Inasmuch as 'labour' is a concurrent subject, after the fact of misappropriation was brought to the notice of this Government, did this Government take any action to ascertain how, when the Regional Inspector for Provident Fund was making periodical visits to factories and inspecting the accounts, such large-scale misappropriation had taken place? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" As I have already stated, the initiative in such matters must be taken only by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, who is an officer of the Government of India. When he has moved in the matter now, the officers of this Government, including the Collector, take necessary action."

Closure of elementary schools in the Malabar district.

* 597 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that about 40 elementary schools under the Malabar District Board have been closed down during the past four years; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) About 60 schools were either closed or amalgamated with other schools in the same locality, on account of uneconomic strength or house-collapse or want of suitable accommodation."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Is it a fact that the Government did not give their grants to elementary schools under the District Board in due time and if so, whether that was the reason for the closure of elementary schools under the District Board? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir. That is not the reason."

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Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Since many of the elementary schools are clustered together—Board schools, aided schools and other schools—will the Government institute an enquiry and redistribute them in such a way as to make them convenient to the public? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I think, Sir, this will be one of the matters which the Committee, we have appointed, will go into."

Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—" ஜில்லா போர்டு நிர்வாகத்தை ஸ்பெஷல் ஆபீஸர்களிடம் ஒப்புவிக்கவேண்டுமென்ற மசோதா சட்ட சபையில் விவாதிக்கப்பட்ட பொழுது, கனம் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் ' ஜில்லா போர்டினால் நடத்தப்படும் எந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தையும் நாங்கள் மூடமாட்டோம் ' என்று வாக்குறுதி கொடுத்தார்கள். இதற்கு முறணாகயில்லையா அங்கேயுள்ள ஸ்பெஷல் ஆபீஸரின் நடத்தை ?"

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" புதிய கல்வி முறை அமலில் வந்த காரணத்தினாலே எந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடமும் மூடப்படமாட்டாது என்ற வாக்குறுதிதான் கொடுக்கப்பட்டதேயொழிய, போதுமான பையன்கள் இல்லாமலிருந்தால் பள்ளிக்கூடங்கள் மூடப்படமாட்டாது என்ற உறுதிமொழி கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" How many of the schools closed were afterwards given to private individuals for management? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I would like to have notice."

Construction of a road bridge over the Pennar river near Villupuram.

* 598 *Q.*—Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the investigation, surveying and estimates for the proposed construction of a road bridge over the Pennar river near Villupuram on the Madras-Tiruchirappalli Trunk Road have been completed ;

(*b*) whether the proposed construction has been included in any of the Five-Year Plans ; and

(*c*) if so, in which of them?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*c*) In the Current Five-Year Programme for the development of National Highway, Sir, this reply was drafted in December last, on the 15th or so. For the information of hon. Members, I wish to state that since then much progress has been made and actually the foundation stone is to be laid on the 13th of this month by the Hon. the Minister for Finance."

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Has any allocation of expenditure been made in this connection between the Central Government and the State Government and if so, what share are this Government to bear? "